

Mr. Speaker, Currently, highway connections are worsening, ports are clogged, rail lines are plagued with chokepoints, and our communities are suffering with increased congestion, ever-worsening air pollution, and a struggling economy. We must act now to address these critical infrastructure issues and bring aid to our communities.

Our communities are struggling right now – not only with an inefficient and underperforming transportation system – but also with high unemployment rates and a sluggish economy.

The Surface Transportation Authorization Act introduced by Chairman Oberstar is a bold step forward on transportation policy that will address our aging infrastructure and create or sustain six million family-wage jobs.

We need to continue the work we did with the Recovery Act and move forward with this legislation now to boost the economy, aid our communities and transform our transportation system.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.